

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-11 ISO-00 STRE-00 FEA-01

AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 OMB-01 /117 W

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R 140859Z FEB 76

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1149

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TUDKGPQ/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 2388

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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PASS AGRICULTURE

H PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD MTN

SUBJECT: MEAT SUBGROUP MEETING, FEBURARY 2-4, 9-12

REF: STATE 017854, 75 MTN GENEVA 7807

1. SUMMARY. RESULTS OF MEAT SUBGROUP MEETING REPORTED BELOW. MEETINGS WERE DESULTORY DUE LARGELY TO LACK OF INITIATIVES ON PART OF MAJOR MEAT EXPORTING COUNTRIES. OTHER MTN DEL INTERPRETATIVE COMMENTS ARE IN PARA 3-5 BELOW. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED JULY WITH PROVISION FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS IN INTERIM. END SUMMARY.

2. TEXT OF NOTE BY CHAIRMAN, NEGOTIATED WITH CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY, REPRODUCED BELOW. BEGIN TEXT:

(1) THE SUBGROUP OF MEAT HELD ITS THIRD SESSION ON 2-4 AND 9-12 FEBURARY. THE SUBGROUP INVITED THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UNCTAD OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND THIS SESSION OF THE SUBGROUP AS AN OBSERVER.

(2) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FIRST STAGE OF ITS PROGRAM OF WORK (PARAGRAPH 4 OF MTN/ME/W/8/REV.1 AND OF THE INFORMATION

FURNISHED BY DELEGATIONS IN THE COURSE OF DISCUSSION, THE SUBGROUP CARRIED OUT A MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION AND ANALYSIS OF ALL THE MEASURES MAINTAINED IN THE BOVINE SECTOR BY SWEDEN, AUSTRIA, FINLAND, SPAIN, ROMANIA, NORWAY, HUNGARY AND YUGOSLAVIA.

(4) THE SUBGROUP AGREED THAT THIS FIRST STAGE OF ITS PROGRAM OF WORK SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS HAVING BEEN COMPLETED BUT THAT IT WOULD BE OPEN TO THE SUBGROUP TO REVERT TO THE ANALYSIS DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 4 OF MTN/ME/1 AT A LATER STAGE. DELEGATIONS WHICH HAVE NOT YET PRESENTED THE MEASURES WHICH THEY MAINTAIN IN THE BOVINE SECTOR FOR MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION AND ALALYSIS ARE INVITED TO DO SO AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE SECRETARIAT SUMMARY OF IMPORT AND EXPORT MEASURES (MTN/ME/W/8/ LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REV.1) BE FURTHER REVISED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF POINTS EMERGING FROM THE ANALYSIS AND OF THE INFORMATION AND COMMENTS WHICH DELEGATIONS ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE SUMMARY.

(4) THE SUBGROUP DISCUSSED VARIOUS ELEMENTS CONTAINED IN PROPOSALS MADE WITH REGARD TO THE CATEGORIES OF TOPICS IDENTIFIED AT THE FIRST MEETING (MTN/ME/1. PARAGRAPH 6) AND AGREED TO CONTINUE THIS DISCUSSION

AT ITS NEXT MEETINGS. FOR THIS PURPOSE THE SUBGROUP AGREED THAT, ON THE BASIS OF THE PROPOSALS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE OR MAY BE MADE, IT WOULD CONTINUE TO STUDY THE ELEMENTS WHICH MIGHT, INTER ALIA, BE SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE MULTILATERAL TREATMENT, AS WELL AS THE ELEMENTS WHICH MIGHT NOT BE THE SUBJECT OF SUCH TREATMENT, ACCOUNT BEING TAKEN IN EITHER CASE OF THE INTER-RELATIONSHIP OF THE COMMITMENTS WHICH MIGHT BE UNDERTAKEN.

(5) IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE WORK OF THE SUBGROUP IN TERMS OF PARAGRAPH 4 ABOVE, DELEGATIONS WERE INVITED TO SUBMIT AT THE APPROPRIATE STAGE A LIST OF ELEMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION IN THIS REGARD, WHICH WOULD BE COMPILED AND CIRCULATED BY THE SECRETARIAT.

(6) THE DISCUSSIONS BROUGHT OUT A NUMBER OF ISSUES WHICH REQUIRE FURTHER REFLECTION AND CLARIFICATION. THE SUBGROUP DECIDED THAT INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS COULD BE HELD ON THESE ISSUES AMONG ITS MEMBERS, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE SECRETARIAT IF REQUESTED, IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE PRESENT AND THE NEXT MEETING.

(7) THE SUBGROUP AGREED TO HOLD ITS NEXT MEETING

1-2 AND 5-9 JULY. END TEXT

3. RE PARAS 2 AND 3 OF CHAIRMAN'S NOTE, THERE WAS VERY LITTLE INTEREST IN THIS PART OF SUBGROUP'S WORK, ESPECIALLY BY MAIN SPONSORS OF MEAT GROUP--AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND--AND DISCUSSION IN FACT HAD TO BE KEPT GOING LARGEMLY BY US, EC AND ARGENTINE DELS.

4. RE PARA 4 OF CHAIRMAN'S NOTE, MAIN INTERVENTIONS WERE:

(A) THE US DEL (KOENIG), IN ORDER TO AVOID NEW CONFRONTATION WITH THE EC (AS PER INSTRUCTIONS) AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BECAUSE THE US IS NOT DEMANDEUR, DID NOT PRESS ITS PROPOSAL FOR LIBERALIZATION. HOWEVER, US DEL REMINDED GROUP THAT THE COMMUNITY HAS A MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY IN THE PRESENT WORLD-WIDE CRISIS IN THE BEEF SECTOR AND THAT SOME INITIATIVES FOR LIBERALIZING IMPORTS ARE EXPECTED FROM THE COMMUNITY AS THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO STABILITY ON THE WORLD'S BEEF MARKETS.

(B) THE EC DEL (JACQUOT) DERIDED THE CONCEPT OF LIBERALIZATION, CALLED IT A FETISH AND DECLARED THAT THE PRESENT IMPORT SYSTEM OF THE COMMUNITY IS NON-NEGOTIABLE. HE MADE, HOWEVER, SEVERAL VEILED REFERENCES TO THE POSSIBILITY OF SPECIAL BILATERAL DEALS WHICH COULD ENTAIL ADJUSTMENTS IN THE EC LEVY SYSTEM. HE ALSO DWELLED AT LENGTH ON THE CONCEPT OF CONCERTED DISCIPLINES WITHOUT EXPLAINING IT. HOWEVER, ON ONE OCCASION, HE DECLARED THAT THIS CONCEPT

IS SIMILAR TO THE VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE US AND CERTAIN BEEF EXPORTERS. EC DEL DID NOT EXPLAIN EITHER THE MEANING OF COORDINATED ACTIONS BETWEEN IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS. HOWEVER, EC DEL'S PROPOSAL FOR STRENGTHENING THE PRESENT MAHINERY FOR MUTUAL INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION WAS SUPPORTED BY ALL DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING THE US.

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(C) NEW ZEALAND (FALCONER) ASKED FOR A REVIEW OF ALL THE ELEMENTS CONTAINED WITHIN THE VARIOUS PROPOSALS WITH A VIEW TO LISTING THOSE ELEMENTS COMMON TO ALL PROPOSALS. HE SUGGESTED BEGINNING WITH THE QUOTE MOST COMPREHENSIVE UNQUOTE (SIC) PROPOSAL, THAT OF OF EC, AND THE PROCEEDINGS TO THE OTHERS. THE EC REJECTED THIS APPROACH SAYING THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO CONDUCT A DISCUSSION OF THE QUOTE GENERAL CONCEPTS UNQUOTE OF PROPOSALS RATHER THAN ELEMENTS. NEW AELAND SIAD THAT THE OBJECT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IS TO OBTAIN FIRM COMMITMENTS FOR BETTER TRADING OPPORTUNITIES. TO THAT END, WORK IN THE FUNCTIONAL GROUPS ON SPECIFIC MEASURES WOULD PLAY A ROLE BUT IN THE MEAT SUBGROUP NEW ZEALAND WANTS COMMITMENTS BY IMPORTING COUNTRIES FOR ACCESS WITH GROWTH. HE SAID SUCH COMMITMENTS COULD BE BILATERAL, PLURILATERAL, OR MULTILATERAL BUT MUST BE GLOBAL IN THEIR EFFECT.

(D) AGRENTINA (MARTINEZ/ARLIA) EXPRESSED DOUBT ABOUT THE EC'S IDEA FOR A NETWORK OF BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN A MULTILATERLA FRAMEWORK SOLUTIONS. WHERE MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS CANNOT BE FOUND, BILATERAL SOLUTIONS MIGHT BE SOUGHT. ARGENTINA ALSO REFERRED FREQUENTLY TO SANITARY BARRIERS AS ONE OF THE KEY ELEMENTS FOR DISCUSSIONS. US REPEATED IT WILLINGNESS TO HAVE TECHNICAL BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS THIS SUBJECT BUT STRESSED THAT HEALTH STANDARDS ARE NOT NOGOTIABLE.

(E) US PRPOSAL FOR BRINGING THE PERIODBETWEEN THE CURRENT AND THE NEXT MEETING BY ESTABLISHING A NOTIFICATION AND CONSULTATION PROCEDURE LIKE IN GROUP AGRICULTURE WAS NOT ACCEPTED, NOTWITHSTANDING US DEL REFERENCE TO PROCEDURAL SUGGESTIONS BY TNC CHAIRMAN ON DECEMBER 11. IN THIS CONTEXT EC CHIDED BRAZIL WHICH HAD MADE SEVERAL CRITICAL REMARKS ABOUT EC POSITION FOR HAVING NOTIFIED BEEF FOR CONSULTATION WITHOUT ANY DECISION BY SUBGROUP MEAT TO FOLLOW SUCH PROCEDURES FOR THE PRODUCTS UNDER ITS REVIEW.

5. COMMENT. LACK OF ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AS WELL AS
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LACK OF SUBSTANTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO GROUP'S WORK BY
MAJOR EXPORTERS AND EC MAY BE PARTLY EXPLAINED BY THE
FACT THAT ALL EXPORTING COUNTRIES ARE REPORTEDLY AT PRESENT
HOLDING BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON BEEF WITH THE EC COM-
MISSION IN BRUSSELS. THUS THE ACTUAL AND POTENTIAL EC
CLIENTS WERE OBVIOUSLY UNWILLING TO TAKE FIRM POSITIONS
IN THE MTN WHICH MIGHT PREJUDICE THEIR BILATERAL DEALS
AND CONSULTATION WITH THE EC. (THIS WAS PARTICULARLY
OBVIOUS BY ATTITUDE OF EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WHICH
REFRAINED FROM CRITICIZING THE EC.) FURTHERMORE,
AUSTRALIA, IN PARTICULAR, DID NOT WISH TO MOVE AHEAD IN
MEAT SUBGROUP WITHOUT FURTHER PROGRESS IN THE FUNCTIONAL
GROUPS. THE EC, ON THE OTHER HAND, AS WAS POINTED OUT
TO US PRIVATELY BY SEVERAL COMMISSION SOURCES, WAS
UNABLE TO FORMULATE A MORE DEFINITE NEGOTIATING STANCE
BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUING SITUATION IN THE EC,
THE CONFUSED STATE OF THE CAP FOR BEEF WHICH CALLS FOR
A REAPPRAISAL AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE POLITICAL NECESS-
ITY OF INCREASING BEEF SUPPORT PRICES IN THE NEAR
FUTURE WHICH WILL FURTHER AGGRAVATE THE EC BEEF
PROBLEM. END COMMENT WALKER

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